



# ecology and environment, inc.

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International Specialists in the Environmental Sciences

DATE: October 14, 1980

TO: William Goode

FROM: Daniel Cozza *DC*

RE: TDD# F5-8009-5; Site# 128 Hotline Call# 814 and Aerial Photos  
U.S. Steel Plant, Lorain, Ohio

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



315256

On October 10, 1980, Robert Bartholomew, Anne Sause and the writer conducted an on-site inspection of the U.S. Steel Plant. The purpose of this site inspection was two-fold. The first objective was to follow up on a complaint, hot line call# 814, about burnt lime being dumped in an area near the river, and secondly to check out and clarify or identify areas shown in USEPA aerial photographs #836 and #839.

We were escorted throughout the site by Karl Kummant, plant engineer and Mike Schack, engineer. Mr. Kummant thoroughly explained the lime process including the lime plant's wet scrubber, and the large pond that is used for collecting the contact and non-contact cooling water. He also explained the process of dredging the cooling pond. This needs to be done every two to three years to clean out the settled burnt lime which enters the pond via the contact cooling water. We did find that the burnt lime impoundment, the area where the pond's dredgings are placed to dry, is in close proximity to the Black River, but we found no evidence of leachate running towards the river. It is suggested that perhaps the Ohio EPA take a closer look at the burnt lime impoundment soon after a heavy rain or after new dredging as the possibility of leachate is greater at these times than when the impoundment is dry, such as it was when we conducted our investigation.

By conducting the on-site inspection, the areas in question on the USEPA aerial photographs were identified. The large pond in photo #839 is used as a holding pond for cooling water as explained above. The disturbed area near the pond, photo #839, is a large pile of crushed limestone and the tank-like structures in photos #836, the area that is across the river from the U.S. Steel plant and is at the elbow of the dirt road that comes off of the main paved road, is composed of mounds of clay and limestone. The area is also used for the illicit dumping of solid household refuse such as water heaters, shingles, etc.

As for further action, the Ohio EPA should, as stated above, follow up on the investigation of the burnt lime impoundment. No further action is needed by the USEPA.

DC/df